

**Texas Christian University  
Alcohol and Drug Task Force Report**

**Presented To  
Vice Chancellor Donald B. Mills  
October 2010**

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VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

## Charge to Alcohol/Drug Policy Committee

Spring 2010

The use and misuse of alcohol/other drugs is a serious problem on college campuses resulting in academic disappointment, physical injury, assaults and in some cases addiction. Yet alcohol is endemic to social functioning in America and can serve an appropriate role on the campus. Determining the appropriate role that alcohol should play on the campus is a difficult balancing act requiring wise policy, broad-based education and judicious discipline. There is no role for any illicit drug use on the campus. Nevertheless the issues of policy, education and discipline must be addressed.

The charge, then, to the committee is:

- I. Review the information available about student alcohol/drug use at TCU and nationally.
- II. Make recommendations for a TCU Alcohol policy including circumstances when it is appropriate for students to use alcohol. Recommend the circumstances it would be appropriate to allow alcohol on the campus including athletic events, university departmental, alumni and student functions and make policy recommendations for implementation.
- III. Make recommendations appropriate for educational programming for students, faculty/staff and student organization advisors.
- IV. Recommend policy/practice initiatives that may decrease student alcohol/other drug use and encourages responsible and safe use of alcohol and other drugs.
- V. Recommend appropriate disciplinary action for violation of the university's alcohol/other drug policy.

The Committee's recommendations, or at minimum a progress report, should be made to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs by April 30, 2010. Report of completed Task Force work and Recommendations should be given to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs October 2010.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vice Chancellor Donald Mills charged a TCU university-wide committee to study TCU's alcohol and drug policies, education, and discipline during the spring 2010 academic term. The misuse of alcohol and other drugs is a serious national problem on college campuses. Although increasing, TCU's Core research data clearly shows TCU student use/misuse to be slightly lower than national averages. While many campuses have recently seen student deaths result from alcohol and drug abuse, TCU fortunately has not. Therefore, this timely study and recommendation to the Vice Chancellors and Chancellor is a proactive, rather than reactive, process.

It is always the goal of the university to utilize current best practices and work with students in all health areas to avoid academic disappointment, physical injury, and other negative harmful behavior.

The Task Force conducted a comprehensive study which:

1. Reviewed and discussed other university policies and current alcohol and drug use research;
2. Reviewed the publicized SMU Alcohol and Drug Study conducted in the past few years, noting the commonalities shared between TCU and SMU as similarly-sized private universities in the Metroplex area; also met with SMU staff;
3. Brought Dr. Frances Lucas, then Millsap College President and former Vice President Student Affairs at Emory University to campus as an outside consultant;
4. Met with TCU Parents Council to present TCU information and conduct focus groups.

To ensure ample representation on the Task Force members included the president of Faculty Senate, Staff Assembly, Student Government Association, and key student organization groups, a member of the TCU Board of Trustees & TCU alumnus and diverse staff and faculty.

What is abundantly clear is that alcohol and drug use by students on any college campus is an ongoing challenge as it has been for past decades. ***There is no silver bullet easy answer to this complex issue.*** The issue is complicated and multifaceted. The Task Force agreed with Dr. Lucas's findings that TCU is conducting outstanding collaborative work with students dealing with this complex issue, and has implemented appropriate and best practices on a regular basis such as the amnesty policy to encourage students to seek help when needed. TCU is - and has been addressing the problem of alcohol and other drug use in a variety of effective ways.

This report provides an overview of current TCU programs and protocols and lists recommendations for TCU leadership to consider adopting. TCU recognizes that most students (76%) choose to drink alcohol; therefore, procedures and policies must include alcohol and drug education, reduce risks of student harm, and help students to make healthy and mature decisions

while providing a supportive environment for the 24% of students who choose not to drink alcohol or use other drugs. It is imperative to expect and promote **“student responsibility”** for individual behavior and choices.

The Task Force focused mostly on alcohol, as it is the substance most frequently overused by TCU students. The Task Force recognized that other drug use, although not as prevalent as alcohol use, must continue to be assessed and addressed by TCU programs and services. If even one TCU student experiences consequences from alcohol and other drugs, it can be a problem for the entire community.

Regrettably, both nationally and at TCU, some students will not make healthy decisions regarding alcohol and other drugs—despite well-placed efforts, programs, and services. The Task Force concluded that, after extensive review and consideration of sound research, there will always be conflicting opinions on how to best address this complex issue.

# **TCU Alcohol and Drug Task Force 2010**

## **Co-Chairs**

Susan Adams  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs  
Dean of Campus Life

Andrew Schoolmaster  
Dean of AddRan College of Liberal Arts  
Professor of Geography

## **Committee Members**

|                   |                                                                                                |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Craig Allen       | Director of Residential Services                                                               |
| Chris Curtis      | President, TCU Alumni Association<br>Board of Trustees                                         |
| Marion Donaldson  | Admin Assistant, Campus Life                                                                   |
| Craig Elders      | Chair of Staff Assembly                                                                        |
| Marlon Figueroa   | President, TCU Student Body                                                                    |
| David Gable       | Associate Director of Sports Medicine                                                          |
| Sparkle Greenhaw  | Director of Alcohol & Drug Education                                                           |
| Rhonda Hatcher    | Associate Professor of Mathematics<br>NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for the University |
| Dianna McFarland  | Faculty Senate Chair, Department of Psychology                                                 |
| Steve McGee       | TCU Chief of Police                                                                            |
| Porter Neessen    | Panhellenic President                                                                          |
| John Singleton    | Director of International Services                                                             |
| C. Granger Talley | HyperFrogs President                                                                           |
| John Willis       | IFC President                                                                                  |

## Overview and Task Force Activities

The charge to our team early in 2010 was to review information about alcohol and drug use; recommend policy/practice initiatives; recommend appropriate disciplinary measures; recommend educational program ideas; and recommend appropriate circumstances to allow alcohol on campus including implementation ideas.

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 2009           | Co-Chairs Selected                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| November/December 2009 | Committee Members Selected                                                                                                                                                                         |
| January 2010           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Task Force Meeting<br>Begin collecting information<br>Brainstorm successes and concerns                                                                                            |
| February 2010          | Charge from the Vice Chancellor<br>Study current campus trends/scope of the problem<br>Collect national data<br>Webinar: Using Data and Research in Planning                                       |
| March 2010             | SMU Task Force presentation<br>TCU history of prevention program<br>TCU Alcohol & Drug Education<br>National guidelines for effective programs and best practices                                  |
| April 2010             | Review collected information<br>Task Force Consultant campus visit<br>Consultant meets with administrators, students, faculty, and staff<br>Focus Groups<br>Year-end reports; satisfaction surveys |
| June 2010              | Task Force Consultant follow-up visit<br>Consultant report                                                                                                                                         |
| July/August 2010       | Continue reviewing data, policies, procedures<br>Meet with Choose Responsibility President, Barry Seaman<br>Begin considering recommendations                                                      |
| September 2010         | 2010 TCU Core Alcohol and Drug Survey data<br>Parent Council Presentation and Focus Groups<br>Formulate specific recommendations                                                                   |
| October 2010           | Synthesize information<br>Discuss priorities<br>Finalize recommendations<br>Submit report to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs                                                                |